Hiraishi Tetsuo Sensei
CONCRETE LABYRINTHOS

25. Into The Forest. (3)

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I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE MOUNTAIN. I MEAN, WHO WOULD...
BUT I SEE IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO DESERVE A GOD.
ANYWAY...
HO-YOUNG WAS A LOT OF INFLUENCE. SHE GOT US OUT OF OUR AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES SO EASILY...

WERE YOU THE ONES WHO...
YES! FROM HANYU HIGH SCHOOL...
OKAY, COME WITH ME. LET US TALK WHILE WE WALK.
DOES HE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY LEG...
ANYWAY, I THOUGHT WE'RE OUTSIDE.
UM...

YOU SAID YOU NEED TO ASK A FAVOR FROM THE LOCAL CHIEF.
YES, WE NEED TO ENTER AN INCOMPLETE BUILDING THAT HAS BEEN CURSED BY HAN.
INCOMPLETE BUILDING...
AH!

HUH...THAT PLACE IS REALLY SUPERSTITIOUS...
YOU DO REALIZE THAT, DON'T YOU?
SOMETHING BAD IS GOING ON AT OUR SCHOOL.
IT SEEMS THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO FORWARD.
SOMETHING BAD, YOU SAY?
YES...

IT GRANTS WISHES AND SOLVES ALL OF THEIR PROBLEMS FOR THEM?
HAH, SOUNDS LIKE NINA TO ME.
HI
YOU KNOW ABOUT NINA?!
HAHA, NOT REALLY.
I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR ABOUT IT FROM OTHERS.

NARE~ WE HAVE GUESTS.
HELLO~
AH, ARE THEY THE ONES WHO CALLED THIS MORNING?
UH... RIGHT. THE FOX... IS HERE, ALRIGHT?
HAH, TALK ABOUT BEING IMPATIENT.

SHE WAS TOO IMPATIENT TO WAIT...
SO SHE CAME HERE ALREADY TO LISTEN TO YOU LAPA.
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO HER?
EEEK...
TO...TO A GOD?!
YES, INDEED. SHE'S IN THAT ROOM.
GO IN.
CAN WE BE ALLOWED HIM IN PERSON?!

IT'S...REALLY A GOD, RIGHT?
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?
HOW WOULD HE LOOK LIKE?
THERE'S AN OLD WARRING HISTORIAN, THE GOD'S GREATEST ADVERSARY HOLDING SWAY OVERTHE LANGUAGE. ONE HAS A PARTICULAR ADVERSE AND HISTORICAL AIM/ THOUGHT OF THE GOD AS A WHOLE.
ALL KINDS OF HUMANOIDS THAT APPEAR IN MY LIFE CLOTHES.
ACTUALLY NOT IT IN THE REAL
HOW CUTE, THAT'S MY OWN FANTASY!
A GOD!!
FANTASY..!!

HMM..
AND THOSE?
THOSE..
?
VISIONS
HOLDS BEHIND YOU
THIS...

HMMM...?
?
쉬 익

쑤 욱
HMMM.

IT'S JUST A NO-NAME SCHMUCK!
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY MEAN...
MY FIRST BOOK OF LIFE WAS A HIT!
TOSS!
AND...

YOU...
HEHEHE...
MAL-YOUK, YOU SHOULD HAVE HASHIN YOURSELF AND DRESSED PRO...
BIG-SHOT U, HUMPF! WHILE I WAS LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SHOW MYSELF!?
HOW CAN I DISTURB SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION?!

TOSS!
MAL-YOUK FOLLOWS YOU. I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU MUST BE RELATED TO HIM!
!!
SHISH!
?!
YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER...
DID YOU KNOW HIM?
OF COURSE, I GAVE MAL-YOUK TO HIM.

I JUDGE YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OUT OF YOUNG FAMILY STORAGE...
MOST OF THE STUFF IN THERE WERE USED BY ME BEFORE I BECAME A GOD. I ENTRUSTED THE STUFF TO YOU.
AH...
WELL! ANYWAY,
BACK TO THE TOPIC.
YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU MY PERMISSION TO ENTER THE CURSED BUILDING?
YES...

HE...
WAIT, I WAS TOLD THAT WAS GOING ON IN YOUR SCHOOL.
LET'S GET TO THE MAIN TOPIC.
BUT BEFORE THAT, LET ME MAKE A FEW THINGS CLEAR.

THE PILLAR AROUND TAINTED BY INFLUENCE DEGREES... SO TO SPEAK.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS FOR TOO LONG!
OF COURSE. WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT THE REAL MAA HERE.
THE WHOLE THING WAS
THE PILLAR AROUND TAINTED BY INFLUENCE DEGREES... SO TO SPEAK.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS FOR TOO LONG!

THE PILLAR... IS SAID TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR MENTAL AND TROUBLES.
YOU MEAN...!
...MAA!?
AS EXPECTED FROM GOD REASONING!
YES...
THE PILLAR... AROUND TAINTED BY INFLUENCE DEGREES... SO TO SPEAK.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS FOR TOO LONG!

OF COURSE. WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT THE REAL MAA HERE.
THE WHOLE THING WAS
BUT BEFORE THAT, LET ME MAKE A FEW THINGS CLEAR.
THE PILLAR... IS SAID TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR MENTAL AND TROUBLES.
YOU MEAN...!
...MAA!?
AS EXPECTED FROM GOD REASONING!
YES...

I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS ONLY ONCE, SO LISTEN UP!!
LIKE THIS MOUNTAIN, WHICH A MOUNTAIN IS OVER A CERTAIN SIZE, A HOLY VEIN FLOWS UNDER IT.
AND A POINT WHERE IT RELEASES ITS EXCESSIVE ENERGY IS CALLED A THERAUTOS POINT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT PEOPLE TRIED TO BUILD SEVERAL BUILDINGS OVER A THERAUTOS POINT IN THE SOUTH A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
ONE OF IT WAS YOUR OWN HIGH SCHOOL.
THE EXCESSIVE ENERGY... BY ITSELF IS NOTHING. IT'S NOT HARMFUL OR ANYTHING.
BUT ONCE A SPELL OR A STRONG LOOSE CONSCIOUSNESS GETS IN IT STARTS TO BECOME SOMETHING.
THE PILLAR OF YOUR SCHOOL AND IT'S PURPLE SUBSTANCE...
THE ENERGY MUST HAVE BEEN TAINTED BY SOME OTHER EXTERNAL INFLUENCE. PLUS SOME SPELL OR CONSCIOUSNESS.

THE OTHER SCHOOL, YOU KNOW MUST HAVE BEEN CREATED BY ITS POWERS.
AND IT HOUSE THAT STRANGE WORLD TOGETHER...
ITS POWER SOURCE...
MUST BE THE DESIRES OF THE STUDENTS.
THEY HAVE WISHES THAT WANT TO BE GRANTED.
AND THE PILLAR HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED TO REFLECT THEIR WISHES.

I SEE... IT DOES MAKE SENSE.
YUP.
BUT THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE IT BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE IT LIKE WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW...
SOMETHING SOLID...A SPIRIT OR SOMETHING, MUST BE INVOLVED!
YOU MEAN...?
TAKE A GUESS.

THE PILLAR...
IS SAID TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR MENTAL AND TROUBLES.
YOU MEAN...!
...MAA!?
AS EXPECTED FROM GOD REASONING!
YES...

OF COURSE. WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT THE REAL MAA HERE.
THE WHOLE THING WAS
BUT BEFORE THAT, LET ME MAKE A FEW THINGS CLEAR.
THE PILLAR... IS SAID TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR MENTAL AND TROUBLES.
YOU MEAN...!
...MAA!?
AS EXPECTED FROM GOD REASONING!
YES...

WHAT?!
YOU ARE UNABLE TO ENTER THE OTHER BODY?
YES...
WE TRIED...
BUT IT SEEMS THOSE ON THE OTHER SIDE HAVE BEEN PUT OFF ALL BY TRANCE.
I THINK I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. I CAN SEE THAT IT'S BEEN TAINTED.
TO STOP IT FROM GETTING WORSE, WE MUST TAKE THOSE ON THE OTHER SIDE BACK TO OUR WORLD... BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO WAY TO...
SO WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ENTER FROM THE CURSED BUILDING...
WELL... HMM... IT IS CONNECTED TO THE VEIN, SO YES, IT IS POSSIBLE...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT OUR PRIMARY JOB IS?
NO...
IT'S TO PROTECT HUMANS FROM SPIRITUAL DISASTERS!
AND NOW SOME KIDS COME HERE...
AND ASK ME TO GO COOLLY ENTER SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE?
KNOW WHERE YOU STAND!
YOU WILL LITERALLY BE PUTTING YOUR LIFE IN OUR HANDS!? ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT!?
....
HMM...
...OH.
THAT IS WHAT I WOULD SAY NORMALLY.
I CAN'T MEDDLE INTO THE MATTER...
BUT IF I LEAVE IT LIKE THAT, IT'S GOING TO AFFECT THOSE AROUND HERE...
HAH...
...WELL IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS...
I WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF YOU DO IT!
SO JUST GO IN THERE AND DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
?!
ARH

TAKE THIS.
THIS IS MY PERMISSION.
NATURALLY, THERE WILL BE GUARDIANS AND SUCH!
BUT COPY IT AND GIVE THE COPIES TO THOSE WHO NEED TO ENTER. THEY WILL LET YOU PASS.
NOW... HAS BEEN TAINTED?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY... YES.
HMM...
ACTUALLY...

HMM...

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE IT, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER OTHER PLACES WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE AS LONG AS IT IS WITHIN MY DOMAIN.

YES?

OTHER PLACES?

SO?! THE ROOTS ALWAYS GOTH AS DEEP AS POSSIBLE.

AH, KID!!

THINK ON YOUR OWN!!

BAM!

...?

SO...

YOU'RE LETTING US IN, YES?

YEAH. WELL...

SO NUTS, KID.

...OH.

A BONUS FOR HELPING KNOX YOU CAME THIS FAR.

?

IF YOU LOOK INTO THE ABYSS, THE ABYSS WILL ALSO LOOK INTO YOUR MIND

THE KIDS APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO CONTROL THE VEIN WITH THE PILLAR.

BUT THE PILLAR IS HOLDING THEIR MINDS HOSTAGE.

JUST TAKING THEM OUT OF THERE WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.

WE NEED TO COMPLETELY DESTROY THE PILLAR. IF NOT, EVENTUALLY SOME OTHER KIDS WILL REPLICATE THE SAME TROUBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

KEEP THAT IN MIND

...!

ZEN'EDIS

THE PILLAR

LEAVING ALREADY?

HOW DID IT GO?

IT WENT WELL!

THANK YOU.

I COULD HEAR FROM OUTSIDE...

YOU HAVE TO DESTROY THE ROOTS!!

YES...

ANY IDEA AS TO HOW?

WE WILL COME UP WITH SOMETHING!

THE SCHOOL HAS ALL SORTS OF STUDENTS ...

THIS MIGHT COME IN HANDY. TAKE IT.

THIS IS...?

QUAKE!

THIS ...

IS A PIECE OF BULGASARI?!

OH...YOU CAN IDENTIFY IT JUST BY LOOKING AT IT?

I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT.

YOU SAW CORRECTLY.

IT IS A SHARD OF BULGASARI, A MONSTER THAT EATHS STEEL.

IT LOVES TO CREATE CHAOS IN CHAOTIC STAR...

SOME TRIED TO KILL IT WITH FIRE BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP IT AT ALL AND IT CONTINUED ITS RAMPAGE AGAIN. SETTING FIRE TO A WHOLE COUNTRY.

IT EVENTUALLY WENT INTO SEA...

PEOPLE CONSIDER HIM A HOLY CREATURE THAT BURNS AWAY BAD INFLUENCES

IT SHOULD BE HELPFUL AGAINST THE PILLAR

A HOLY CREATURE...

?

UM...

NOT LONG AGO, I...

USED MY POWERS FOR MY OWN SAKE...

I'VE BEEN TAINTED EVER SINCE...

I CANNOT SUMMON HOLY CREATURES ANYMORE.

...

BULGASARI IS A HOLY CREATURE, BUT IT IN A STRANGE ONE.

FIRE IS FIRE, REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE IT IS ON.

FIRE THAT BURNS AWAY TROUBLES...

FIRE THAT FUELS AMBITIONS...

FIRE THAT STRONGLY ADHERES TO LUMINESCENCE... THEY ARE ALL FIRE.

WHEN BULGASARI COMES INTO CONTACT WITH ANY FORM OF FIRE,

IT WILL CLEANSE IT AND THE FIRE WILL BE REBORN AS HOLY FIRE.

SO WHATEVER DESIRE YOU HAVE, BULGASARI WILL CLEANSE IT.

I'D SAY YOU'VE ADVANCED COMPARED TO BEFORE WHEN YOU USED YOUR POWERS FAIRLY SO.

AT LEAST NOW YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A DARK SIDE AND HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED IT.

JUST TAKE IT WITH YOU FOR NOW.

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...

...YES.